WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   1.   A plugable call control application program interface, comprising:

2   a base plugable call control application program interface to expose a common set

3   of function calls, properties, and callbacks to be utilized by a plurality of call control

4   protocols; and

5   an extended application program interface to provide at least one of advanced

6   function calls, properties, and callbacks beyond the common set.

1   2.   The plugable call control application program interface according to claim 1,

2   further including:

3   a platform isolation layer having a reduced set of basic system functionality to

4   interact with the base plugable call control application program interface and the

5   extended application program interface; and

6   a software application executing on a communications system that accesses the

7   base plugable call control application program interface to initiate a communication

8   utilizing one of the plurality of call control protocols.

1   3.   The plugable call control application program interface according to claim 2,

2   wherein the communications system is a computer system.

1   4.   The plugable call control application program interface according to claim 2,

2   wherein the communications system is an embedded system.

1   5.   The plugable call control application program interface according to claim 1,

2   wherein the plurality of call control protocols include at least one of an International

3   Telecommunication Union (ITU) H.323 protocol, a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP), and a

4   Media Gateway Control Protocol (MGCP).

1   6.   The plugable call control application program interface according to claim 1,

2   wherein the call control protocols are Internet Protocol (IP) telephony call control protocols.

1   7.   The plugable call control application program interface according to claim 1,

2   wherein the plugable call control application program interface is an American National

3   Standards Institute (ANSI) "C" application program interface.

1   8.   The plugable call control application program interface according to claim 1,

2   wherein the at least one of advanced function calls, properties, and callbacks provide additional

3   protocol-specific functionality to at least one of the plurality of call control protocols.

1   9.   The plugable call control application program interface according to claim 1,

2   wherein the at least one advanced function calls, properties, and callbacks beyond the common

3   set is accessed using the base plugable call control application program interface.

1   10.   The plugable call control application program interface according to claim 1,

2   wherein the extended application program interface provides protocol specific information along

3   with base defined callbacks.

1   11.   A method of performing call control on a communications system, the method

2 comprising:

3   providing a common set of function calls, properties, and callbacks to be utilized

4 by a plurality of call control protocols;

5   providing at least one of advanced function calls, properties, and callbacks

6 beyond the common set; and

7   accessing the common set of function calls, properties, and callbacks to initiate a

8 communication utilizing one of the plurality of call control protocols.

1   12.   The method according to claim 11, further including:

2   providing a reduced set of basic system functionality to interact with the common

3 set of function calls, properties, and callbacks; and

4   executing a software application on a communications system to access the

5 common set of function calls, properties, and callbacks to initiate the communication

6 utilizing one of the plurality of call control protocols.

1   13.   The method according to claim 12, wherein the communications system is a

2 computer system.

1   14.   The method according to claim 12, wherein the communications system is an

2 embedded system.

1   15.   The method according to claim 11, wherein the plurality of call control protocols

2   include at least one of an International Telecommunication Union (ITU) H.323 protocol, a

3   Session Initiation Protocol (SIP), and a Media Gateway Control Protocol (MGCP).

1   16.   The method according to claim 11, wherein the call control protocols are Internet

2   Protocol (IP) telephony call control protocols.

1   17.   The method according to claim 11, further including providing with the at least

2   one of advanced function calls, properties, and callbacks additional protocol-specific

3   functionality to at least one of the plurality of call control protocol.

1   18.   The method according to claim 11, wherein the at least one advanced function

2   calls, properties, and callbacks beyond the common set is accessed using the base plugable call

3   control application program interface.

1   19.   The method according to claim 11, wherein the extended application program

2   interface provides protocol specific information along with base defined callbacks.

1   20.   A communications system, comprising:

2   a computer-readable medium; and

3   computer-readable program code, stored on the computer-readable medium,

4   adapted to be loaded and executed on an operating system of the communications system,

5   the computer-readable program code performing,

6   providing a common set of function calls, properties, and callbacks to be

7   utilized by a plurality of call control protocols,

8   providing at least one of advanced function calls, properties, and callbacks
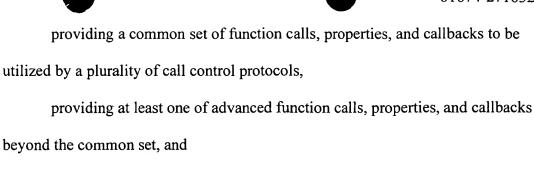
9   beyond the common set, and

10   accessing the common set of function calls, properties, and callbacks to

11   initiate a communication utilizing one of the plurality of call control protocols.

1   21.   The communications system according to claim 20, wherein the computer-

2   readable program code further performs:

3   providing a reduced set of basic system functionality to interact with the common

4   set of function calls, properties, and callbacks; and

5   executing a software application on the communications system to access the

6   common set of function calls, properties, and callbacks to initiate the communication

7   utilizing one of the plurality of call control protocols.

1   22.   The communications system according to claim 20, wherein the plurality of call

2   control protocols include at least one of an International Telecommunication Union (ITU) H.323

3   protocol, a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP), and a Media Gateway Control Protocol (MGCP).

1   23.   The communications system according to claim 20, wherein the call control

2   protocols are Internet Protocol (IP) telephony call control protocols.

1   24.   The communications system according to claim 20, wherein the computer-

2   readable program code further performs providing with the at least one of advanced function

3   calls, properties, and callbacks additional protocol-specific functionality to at least one of the

4   plurality of call control protocols.

1   25.   The communications system according to claim 20, wherein the communications

2   system is a computer system.

1   26.   The communications system according to claim 20, wherein the communications

2   system is an embedded system.

1   27.   The communications system according to claim 20, wherein the at least one

2   advanced function calls, properties, and callbacks beyond the common set is accessed using the

3   base plugable call control application program interface.

1   28.   The communications system according to claim 20, wherein the extended

2   application program interface provides protocol specific information along with base defined

3   callbacks.